★★★

SKY ASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Ferns Hate the Heat

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

At one time, not so very many years ago, almost every home could boast of a big, thriving Boston fern in the living room. This family pet would occupy a wicker fern stand, or possibly an ornate jardiniere, sitting in an east or a north window where it wouldn't get too much sun, and there it would luxuriate year after year with never a sign of old age or ill health.

When the daughter of the family married, a chunk of the old fern would be potted up to furnish the new home, and another family heirloom thereby started.

* * *

We don't see many of these big old ferns these days. One reason, I suppose, is because modern furnishings demand smaller plants, like African violets and Gloxinias, although there are an increasing number of cut-leaf Philodendrons around, which can become enormous great things, bigger than any fern.

More likely, the passing of the family fern as a houseplant is due to our more modern heating methods, for ferns just don't take kindly to the high temperatures and desert-dry air from an automatic oil heating system.

* * *

Most houseplant ferns are watered far too frequently in winter, and this always means ill health and poor root action for the plant. A fern makes a whale of a lot of roots, but as with so many other plants, these roots take a little nap through the winter months and do practically no work at all.

It is bad business to keep forcing water on a plant at a time when it can't use it. The soggy mud in the pot turns sour and unpleasant, often with a sour smell to it, and the inactive roots tend to rot off.

* * *

You see this particularly often in the Maidenhair fern. If this one is watered heavily through the winter months, the fronds fade quickly, and in the spring when the new fronds should appear, all they do is to push up an inch or so, then remain at a standstill. This is because damage to the roots has made them incapable of supporting normal seasonal growth.

During the winter, it is best to allow the soil to become quite dry on top before giving water, then give enough to wet the soil ball thoroughly, but make sure none is left standing in the saucer. If the fern's earthenware pot is concealed within an ornamental jardiniere, it should be sitting up on blocks of wood or chunks of brick well above the level of the drainage water.

* * *

But while ferns cannot tolerate boggy conditions at the roots during the winter months, it is impossible to give them too much atmospheric moisture. They respond enthusiastically to a breath of fresh air outdoors during a light, drizzly shower, of if your plant is small enough to be moved from room to room handily, you might try shifting it to the bathroom while you are taking your hot soak or shower. Just sit it on the floor and let it recharge its batteries in the steamy air.

This business of shoving a plant pill in the soil every week is all wrong, too. Ferns should be given fertilizer very sparingly, and at only half the strength recommended for other plants, with none at all in winter.

The Viewing World

By John Crosby

Dialogue, Dancers, Drunks

What happened in 1958? I'll tell you what happened. The money quiz shows blew up in their owners' faces. The comedians all came back to a blaring of trumpets—and took large pratfalls. The only large splash by a pair of comics was made by Wayne and Shuster, whose elaborate and literate humor won acclaim and suggested that there were no intellectual reaches beyond the TV audience.

What was 1958 good for? Well, conversation came back, for one thing. Some of the celebrated talkers of the year were Gleason on the Godfrey show, Oscar Levant on the Paar show, Malcolm Muggeridge on Small World. Viewers who had forgotten how to talk now said how nice it was on TV. This could lead to people taking up talk again and, of course, turning the set off to do so.

The talk shows had those great lost qualities that TV started with—spontaneity and unexpectedness.

* * *

It was a great year for dancers and drunks. The first people to dance up a storm on TV were the Moiseyev dancers, and Fred Astaire's show was one of the great ones of all time. It just goes to show what television can do when it half tries.

As for the drunks, they showed best on the best original drama fo this slow season—J. P. Miller's, "Days of the Wine and the Roses."

One of the more popular subjects of the year was assassination. Playhouse 90 dwelling heavily on the suggested assassination of Stalin and later doing a documentary-style drama of the St. Valentine's Day underworld massacre.

* * *

It was a bad year for live drama. Studio One and Kraft Theatre ended their runs. DuPont still clung to the live shows and did some good ones, including "Wuthering Heights" and "Count of Monte Cristo," but the suspicion grew that the organization was playing it awfully safe in its story departments.

See It Now, one of TV's few really distinguished shows, went off the air because CBS said it couldn't afford it while managing to afford such milestones as Beat the Clock.

The year was best summed up by Abel Green in Variety: "A national disenchantment has set in with television. Just as it was once fashionable to say 'I haven't seen a movie in years,' people are now saying, 'I can't remember when I turned the set on last'."

Transit Officers Facing Probe

TORONTO (AP)—Alderman Philip Givens says he will call for a judicial investgation of the Toronto Transit Commission's management and senior officials.

Mr. Givens' announcement followed a TTC meeting at which former chairman Allan Lamport said improper handling had resulted in disappearance of more than $200,000 from the union-management sick benefit fund.

Winning Contract

Vul: Neither

NORTH (D)
♠ —
♡ A J 10 4
◇ A J 10 9
♣ A J 9 7 4

WEST
♠ A K 9 6 4
♡ 9 8 6 3
◇ 5 2
♣ 6 5

EAST
♠ 10 8 5 3 2
♡ 7 5
◇ K 6 3
♣ Q 10 8

SOUTH
♠ Q J 7
♡ K Q 2
◇ Q 8 7 4
♣ K 3 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ◇	1 ♠
2 ♡	2 ♠	2 N.T.	Pass
4 ◇	Pass	4 ♡	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
6 ◇	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♠ K

South's one diamond response proved to be the winning bid, although two notrump might have painted a more accurate picture of the balanced hand and 13-point count in high cards. The entire sequence of bidding was masterful, especially North's final choice, as no other slam contract could have been fulfilled.

Declarer ruffed the opening spade lead on the board, returned to his hand via a lead to the heart king, and led the spade queen. West covered, dummy ruffed again and led the trump ace, followed by the jack. East ducked, and South overtook with the queen. This line of play was bound to succeed against any distribution except five trumps in one hand. The diamond trick was conceded, but North's fourth heart provided a parking place for South's losing club.

In the recent Pacific Southwest Regional tournament at Coronado, California, no other pair reached this fine slam contract, and our North-South richly deserved their top score.

Released by The Associated Newspapers

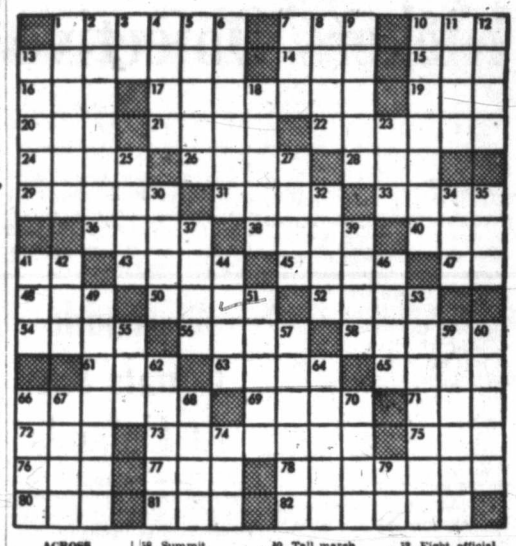
Duplicate Bridge Winners Named

Winners of the monthly master point competition of the Victoria Allmasters' Duplicate Bridge Club:

1. Otto Leesment and Simon Marinker; 2. Tony Marsh and Harry Y. Parry; 3. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cleworth; 4. Mr. and Mrs. W. Dancocks and Mr. and Mrs. A. Jorgensen.

Winners of weekly competition of the Victoria unit, American Contract Bridge League: 1. E. Cleworth-Albert Jorgensen; 2. Phil Hagel-Marian Nicoll; 3. and 4. E. Seddon-H. Rundquist and S. Trickey-Mrs. A. Jorgensen.

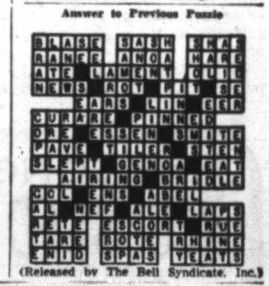
The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Return to a former condition.
7. High mountain.
10. Beverage.
13. More rigorous.
14. Grief.
15. Philippine negrito.
17. Elementary textbook.
19. Man's name.
20. Scotch for John.
21. Biblical people of Northern Arabia.
22. Warning device (pl.)
24. Pass the tongue over.
26. Theatre seat.
28. French plural article.
29. Scoff.
30. Pierce with pointed weapon.
35. Observed.
38. Rivers (Sp.)
40. Before.
41. The ambary.
43. Tidy.
45. Transaction.
47. Pronoun.
48. Girl's name.
50. Soil.
52. Former French designer.
54. Breathe in quick gasps.
58. Tree (pl.).
59. Summit.
61. Muscular twitch.
63. Wharf.
65. Southwest wind.
66. Aromatic ointment.
69. Ireland.
71. Night before an event.
72. High card.
73. Treatment of body by kneading.
75. Female ruff.
76. Weight of India.
77. Paid athlete.
78. Redcaps.
80. Bitter vetch.
81. Place.
82. Eats away.

DOWN
1. Keep.
2. Reveals.
3. Brother of Odin.
4. Formerly.
5. Thrust back.
6. Vibration.
7. Boring tool.
8. Baltimore pitcher.
9. Danger.
10. City of Europe.
11. Aquire by labor.
12. Wallaba.
13. Cruises.
18. Rber.
23. Thing in law.
25. Sharp.
27. Wife of Geraint.
31. Fight official.
35. It is (contr.).
37. Spanish American shawl.
39. Cuts apart.
60. Woody plants.
62. Tents out.
64. Harshness.
66. Low.
67. Genus of Maples.
68. Female horse.
70. Former Roman hero.
74. Drunkard.
79. Touchdown (slang).

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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ATTENTION, BOYS!

Applications Are Now Being Taken for Permanent Newspaper Routes

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OR

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COLONIST ROUTE APPLICATION

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

AGE..... TELEPHONE.....

Joint Committee Meets Today

Greater Victoria intermunicipal committee will meet for the first time this year this afternoon.

Among subjects expected to come before the committee are the progress of a public library agreement and the advisability of establishing a family court in Greater Victoria.